IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 14, 15 and 22 as follows:

Claims 1 through 13. (Canceled)

1   14. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing standby time for printing in a system

2   of networked printers connected to at least one host computer, the method comprising:

3   the at least one host computer registering at least one item of network print

4   information in at least one host computer;

5   the at least one host computer accessing the network printer information registered

6   in the at least one host computer in response to a command for printing print-data being

7   issued;

8   the at least one host computer transmitting a request command from the at least one

9   host computer to the networked printers requesting the networked printers to transmit

10   standby print information to the at least one host computer, the standby print information

11   relating to the amount of standby print operations of the respective networked printers;

12   the at least one host computer determining a minimum-utilized networked printer

13   having a lowest amount of standby print operations from among the networked printers

14   having standby print operations from the standby print information transmitted from the

15   networked printers to the at least one host computer in response to the request command; and

16   the at least one host computer transmitting the print-data from the at least one host

17   computer to the network printer determined to be the minimum-utilized network printer.

1   15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 14, wherein registering at least

2   one item of network print information in at least one host computer comprises:

3   determining whether a command for registering network printer information in the

4   at least one host computer has been issued;

5   detecting the network printers connected to the network; and

6   storing the network printer information in a memory of the at least one host computer.

1   16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising assigning

2   priority numbers to the network printer information in order of detection and storing the

3   assigning priority numbers in the memory.

1   17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein determining a

2   minimum-utilized networked printer comprises:

3   detecting the priority numbers assigned to the networked printers having the lowest

4   amounts of standby print operations; and

5   selecting a networked printer having a preferential priority number as the

6   minimum-utilized network printer.

1   18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the network printer

2   information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered networked printer.

1   19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the network printer

2   information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered networked printer.

1   20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the network printer

2   information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered networked printer.

1   21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the network printer

2   information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered networked printer.

1   22. (Currently Amended) A program storage device, readable by a machine, tangibly

2   embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of

3   reducing standby time for printing in a system of networked printers connected to at least one

4   host computer, the method comprising:

5   the at least one host computer registering at least one item of network print

6   information in at least one host computer;

7   the at least one host computer accessing the network printer information registered

8   in the at least one host computer in response to a command for printing print-data being

9   issued;

10   the at least one host computer transmitting a request command from the at least one

11 host computer to the networked printers requesting the networked printers to transmit

12 standby print information to the at least one host computer, the standby print information

13 relating to the amount of standby print operations of the respective networked printers;

14   the at least one host computer determining a minimum-utilized networked printer

15 having a lowest amount of standby print operations from among the networked printers

16 having standby print operations from the standby print information transmitted from the

17 networked printers to the at least one host computer in response to the request command; and

18   the at least one host computer transmitting the print-data from the at least one host

19 computer to the network printer determined to be the minimum-utilized network printer.

1   23. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein

2   registering at least one item of network print information in at least one host computer

3   comprises:

4   determining whether a command for registering network printer information in the

5   at least one host computer has been issued;

6   detecting the network printers connected to the network; and

7   storing the network printer information in a memory of the at least one host computer.

1   24. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 23, the method

2   further comprising assigning priority numbers to the network printer information in order

3   of detection and storing the assigning priority numbers in the memory.

1   25. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 24, wherein

2 determining a minimum-utilized networked printer comprises:

3   detecting the priority numbers assigned to the networked printers having the lowest

4 amounts of standby print operations; and

5   selecting a networked printer having a preferential priority number as the

6 minimum-utilized network printer.

1   26. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the

2 network printer information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered

3 networked printer.

1   27. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 23, wherein the

2 network printer information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered

3 networked printer.

1   28. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 24, wherein the

2 network printer information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered

3 networked printer.

1   29. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 25, wherein the

2 network printer information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered

3 networked printer.

1 30. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

2 at least one host computer;

3 a plurality of network printers;

4 a network adapted to transfer data between the at least one host computer and the

5 plurality of network printers;

6 wherein the at least one host computer includes a controller, a memory operatively

7 connected to the controller, and an interface adapted to transfer data between the controller

8 and the network;

9 wherein each of the plurality of network printers include a controller, a memory

10 operatively connected to the controller, and an interface adapted to transfer data between the

11 controller and the network;

12 wherein the controller of the at least one host computer is adapted to register at least

13 one item of network print information in the memory of the at least one host computer;

14 wherein the controller of the at least one host computer is adapted to access the

15 network printer information registered in the memory of the at least one host computer in

16 response to a command for printing print-data being issued;

17 wherein the controller of the at least one host computer is adapted to transmit a

18 request command from the at least one host computer to the plurality of network printers via

19   the interface of the at least one host computer and the network and the respective interfaces

20   of the plurality of network printers requesting the networked printers to transmit standby

21   print information to the at least one host computer via the respective interfaces of the

22   plurality of network printers and the network and the interface of the at least one host

23   computer, the controller of each respective one of the plurality of network printers being

24   adapted to determine the standby print information relating to the amount of standby print

25   operations of the respective networked printers;

26   wherein the controller of the at least one host computer is adapted to determine a

27   minimum-utilized networked printer having a lowest amount of standby print operations

28   from among the networked printers having standby print operations from the standby print

29   information transmitted from the networked printers to the at least one host computer in

30   response to the request command; and

31   wherein the controller of the at least one host computer is adapted to transmit the

32   print-data from the at least one host computer to the network printer determined to be the

33   minimum-utilized network printer via the interface of the at least one host computer and to

34   the network and the interface of the network printer determined to be the minimum-utilized

35   network printer.

1   31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein registering at least one

2   item of network print information in the memory of the at least one host computer comprises:

3   the controller of the at least one host computer determining whether a command for

4 registering network printer information in the at least one host computer has been issued;

5 the controller of the at least one host computer detecting the network printers

6 connected to the network; and

7 the controller of the at least one host computer storing the network printer information

8 in a memory of the at least one host computer.

1 32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, further comprising the controller

2 of the at least one host computer being adapted to assign priority numbers to the network

3 printer information in order of detection and storing the assigning priority numbers in the

4 memory.

1 33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein determining a

2 minimum-utilized networked printer by the controller of the at least one host computer

3 comprises:

4 the controller of the at least one host computer detecting the priority numbers

5 assigned to the networked printers having the lowest amounts of standby print operations;

6 and

7 the controller of the at least one host computer selecting a networked printer having

8 a preferential priority number as the minimum-utilized network printer.

1 34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the network printer

2   information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered networked printer.

1   35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the network printer

2   information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered networked printer.

1   36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the network printer

2   information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered networked printer.

1   37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the network printer

2   information comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address of the registered networked printer.